

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated January 10, 2005. Claims 1, 4, 5, 8-14, 17, 18 and 21-72 are presented for examination. Claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 15, 16, 19 and 20 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 14 have been amended as described below, and additional formal changes have been made to Claims 8-13, 17, 18, 21-26, 29-47, 50-55, 57-59, 61-66 and 70. These actions are taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 1, 14, 29, 48, 69 and 70 are in independent form. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

In addition, a substitute specification is submitted herewith, in both a marked and a clean version, to address the objection to the specification. No new matter has been added. In this regard, it is noted that not all the headings listed in the Office Action have been used, and some of those used have been modified slightly. Nonetheless, it is believed that the application complies with all requirements of 37 C.F.R., and withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for returning initialed copies of the forms PTO-1449 listing the art submitted with Applicants' first four Information Disclosure Statements filed in this application. Applicants note, however, that they filed a fifth Information Disclosure Statement on April 8, 2004 (see attached PAIR print-out). Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to return an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 filed on April 8, 2004, to confirm that the reference cited therein was considered.

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that Claims 3, 7, 16 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten so as not to depend from a rejected claim, and with no change in scope. Since the recitations of Claims 3 and 16 (including those of Claims 2 and

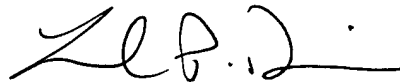
15, respectively) have been incorporated into their respective base claims (Claims 1 and 14), these latter claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

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Respectfully submitted,



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